



PATENT  
Docket No. 4290-4000

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Oystein IHLE et al.  
Serial No. : 09/870,128 Group Art Unit: TBA  
Filed : May 30, 2001 Examiner: TBA  
For : **METHOD FOR SEPARATING NUCLEIC ACIDS INTO POPULATIONS**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please add the following new claims, 39-96 as follows:

39. A method for at least partially separating nucleic acid molecules in a sample into populations wherein a population is tagged or capable of being tagged with a protein capable of being immobilised on a matrix, wherein the tag interacts directly with the matrix, said method comprising contacting the nucleic acid containing sample with a matrix whereby the tagged molecules are captured by the matrix and thereby separated from untagged molecules.

40. The method according to claim 39 wherein the tag is a protein which can be incorporated into a nucleic acid molecule or a protein which has an affinity for a nucleic acid molecule.

41. The method according to claim 39 wherein the tag is an antigen.

42. The method according to claim 39 wherein the protein is a nucleic acid binding protein.

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02 FC:202

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